



SIRS RESEARCHER®

WINDOWS/MAC VERSION

RESEARCH STRATEGIES OVERVIEW

THE DATABASE

SIRS Researcher® is a general reference CD-ROM with thousands of full-text articles and graphics exploring social, scientific, health, historic, economic, business, political and global issues. Sources include more than 1,500 newspapers, magazines, journals and U.S. government publications. The SIRS Researcher Almanac includes three additional content databases: World Almanac Excerpts containing information on major international organizations, nations of the world, states of the union and world history; Directory of Publications providing background information on nearly 1,500 publications; and Maps of the World including each of the United States, Canada's provinces, nations of the world and numerous regional maps.

FULL TEXT ARTICLES

Full-Text Articles are available with brief summaries and bibliographic source information. Articles may be printed or saved as full or partial text. Three easy-to-use search strategies guide you to informative articles and graphics.

- **Keyword Search** pinpoints articles based upon your own combination of words. Determine one or more key words or word combinations that are likely to appear in articles written about your topic; type them into the empty fields. These key words will be linked by the logical operator *and*, unless you specify *or* or *not*. For example, if you want to locate articles about comets, you could choose as your key words: COMET or METEOR and STRIKE. (When using *or* or *not*, it is important to note that the first and second key words interact before the third word is added into the search.)
- **Subject Headings** accesses articles indexed primarily according to Library of Congress subject headings.
- **Topic Browse** structures articles under broad topics and years (see list on reverse). When you select a topic and year, related article titles will appear in reverse chronological order.

WORLD ALMANAC EXCERPTS

Excerpts from *The World Almanac® and Book of Facts 1999* include important facts describing major international organizations; profiles of all the nations of the world; information on each of the 50 United States, as well as the District of Columbia and outlying U.S. areas; and an overview of world history describing the people and events that have shaped the past – beginning with prehistoric times and continuing through the 1990s. Select a category for a complete list of related articles.

DIRECTORY OF PUBLICATIONS

Directory of Publications provides editorial descriptions and editorial/subscription contact information for nearly 1,500 publications. You can locate a publication by name or by browsing the list of titles. Use the Category list to select a category and view a list of publications related to that category.

MAPS OF THE WORLD

Maps of the World provides 300 colorful, detailed maps depicting each of the United States, Canada and its provinces, nations and numerous regions of the world.

KEYWORD SEARCH TIPS

Note: As you enter your key words, the screen will display the number of articles containing each word or word combination (COMET, 278 articles; METEOR, 116 articles; STRIKE, 2074 articles). The computer calculates and displays the number of articles matching your criteria (49 articles). Click OK to obtain the list of articles.

Master Copy – Duplicate As Needed

RESEARCH STRATEGIES OVERVIEW

SIRS
RESEARCHER®

TOPICS COVERED IN THE FULL-TEXT ARTICLES DATABASE

- Aging
- AIDS Crisis
- Applied Science
- Communication
- Consumerism
- Criminal Justice
- Death & Dying
- Defense
- Earth Science
- Economics
- Education
- Energy
- Ethnic Groups
- Ethics
- Family
- Food
- Government
- Habitat
- Health
- History
- Human Rights
- Life Science
- Medical Science
- Mental Health
- Money
- Physical Science
- Pollution
- Population
- Privacy
- Religion
- Sexuality
- Sports
- Substance Abuse
- Technology
- Third World
- Transportation
- Women
- Work
- World Affairs
- Youth

EXAMPLE WORKSHEET

What topic are you researching?

INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

SUBJECT HEADINGS SEARCH

INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

U.S. NATIONAL AERONAUTIC
AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

AEROSPACE ENGINEERS

TOPIC BROWSE:

Which of the SIRS topics listed in the box (left) are likely to contain the information you are seeking? List these topics.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

APPLIED SCIENCE

TECHNOLOGY

KEYWORD SEARCH:

List all the key words (or phrases) you can think of relating to your research topic. Key words or phrases may be linked by *AND*, *OR* or *NOT*. Think of words with similar meanings, as well as irrelevant usages that you can eliminate from your search by using *NOT*. (Word plurals and tense variations can be included by typing an asterisk (*) after the common word root, i.e., POLLUT* for pollute, polluted, pollution, etc.)

1. MIR AND 2. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION AND 3. ASTRONAUTS

WORKSHEET

What topic are you researching? _____

SUBJECT HEADINGS SEARCH:

List subject headings you think might help find information about your research topic.

TOPIC BROWSE:

Which of the SIRS topics listed in the box (left) are likely to contain the information you are seeking? List these topics. As you select a topic in the Topic Browse option, you will get a list of all article titles related to that topic.

KEYWORD SEARCH:

List all the key words (or phrases) you can think of relating to your research topic. Key words or phrases may be linked by *AND*, *OR* or *NOT*. Think of words with similar meanings, as well as irrelevant usages that you can eliminate from your search by using *not*. Word plurals and tense variations can be included by typing an asterisk (*) after the common word root, i.e., POLLUT* for pollute, polluted, pollution, etc. (Remember, the first two keyword lines will interact before the third keyword line and its logical operator are added into the search.)

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____